

VZCZCXRO4032
PP RUEHAG RUEHROV
DE RUEHAK #2819 3271527
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 231527Z NOV 07
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4430
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0118
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0005
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0069
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0074
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 0040
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0270
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY 0024
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY 0007
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 0062
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0002
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 002819

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/23/2017
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [VE](#) [TU](#) [WHA](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY: DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA

REF: SECSTATE 154674

Classified By: Acting PolCouns Kelly Degnan, reasons 1.4 b, d

¶1. (C) We delivered reftel points on November 21 to MFA Latin America Head of Department Ece Ozturk Cil. Cil assured us that U.S. concerns in Latin America are strongly taken into account in Turkey's Latin America policies, given her department's location in the MFA Americas Directorate and Turkey's otherwise limited political and economic engagement in the region. She noted that while Turkey does have an Embassy in Caracas, relations between the two countries are shallow. No high level visits are planned in the near future. She does not expect Turkey to publicly raise any concern about Venezuelan democracy or its Inter-American Democratic Charter commitments, but conceded that Turkey's aspiring to a UNSC seat next year could prompt the GOT to take greater interest in global democracy and human rights issues.

¶2. (C) Concerning Venezuela as an almost-full MERCOSUR member, Cil noted that MFA is concerned about the MERCOSUR parliament's November 19 decision to formally recognize an Armenian "genocide" and its call on other governments to do the same. Preventing recognition of an Armenian "genocide" in foreign parliaments is an important policy priority for Turkey anywhere in the world, and the GOT is considering the implications of and its response to the MERCOSUR decision.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON